

## **Report of the Superintendent of Schools, SAU #83**

Well into my third year as Superintendent of Schools for the Fremont School District, I continue to be excited about the wonderful things that are being done at the Ellis School. Clearly, as I walk through the building, the teachers are working diligently to assure the highest quality education possible. The learning activities that the students participate in are both motivating and challenging.

The foremost Goal of the District is to increase the achievement levels of our students. NECAP Assessment Progress has remained steady over the past year, with the Fall 2011 results yet to arrive. As always, I caution using just the NECAP results as the sole indicator of success. We also use data from NWEA Testing to not only show gains, but to help drive instruction for the students. The scores in Language Arts and Math are beginning to demonstrate sound growth because of the Response to Intervention program at the Ellis school.

Curriculum monitoring continues to be a focus in our school improvement process. In an ongoing effort to improve the Literacy Skills for our youngsters, we have developed the essential skills for each grade level in Reading. Additionally, we are piloting a reading program, "Treasures" which we hope to incorporate as a school-wide program in the near future. A focus is now on Writing, determining what writing skills students should have accomplished at the end of each grade level.

We are also assessing our Math curriculum, looking to make sure that we are continually striving to increase achievement for students. This process has just begun and will hopefully be concluded in June of 2012 with an outlined plan of how to improve the achievement level of our students.

During the last months, I have been working with a group of parents, teachers, and the town librarians to discuss how we can improve the Math and Reading skills of students prior to them entering kindergarten. We are hoping to present parents of newborn babies with gift baskets which would include a children's book and ideas for working with youngsters under the age of five on developing the necessary skills for entering kindergarten.

During the past year, we said goodbye to four veteran employees of the District. Dawn Lewis, Carol Cohen and Lauren Kenney have moved on to other ventures. Additionally, we have just received word that Maura Milner will leave the school at the end of January. We wish them well.

We have been fortunate to hire two outstanding administrators this past school year. Sarah Krebs is serving as the District Special Education Coordinator. She comes to us with many years of experience in this role, most recently in Raymond.

Doug Totten moved to Fremont from a classroom Math teaching position in Sanborn to serve as the Assistant Principal for the Ellis School. We look forward to continued success from Ms. Krebs and Mr. Totten. In addition, we welcome Amber Bishop, the new Technology Teacher.

During the fall, the School Board was involved in working on two Collective Bargaining Agreements. There was great and quick success with the Support Staff Agreement. Unfortunately, the Teachers Agreement has not been as successful and we will need to resume discussions in the future.

The Strategic Plan developed by NESDEC in 2008 continues to be tackled. Progress has been made in almost every area. Please go to our website @ [www.sau83.org](http://www.sau83.org) to review the Plan.

I would like to thank the educators at the Ellis school for their hard work and dedication to the students. John Safina has done an excellent job providing PreK- Grade 8 leadership for the school. Additionally, I would like to thank the Fremont School Board for their support and a sound working relationship. Finally, the community in total has been most supportive of what we are doing for the children. Thanks for working with us.

I look forward to the upcoming months and anticipate that the Fremont School District will continue making great gains in student success.

Sincerely,

William P. Lander  
Superintendent of Schools

"I have learned to use the word impossible with the greatest caution."

~Wernher von Braun